

Lecture III: Thesis Templates – Introduction 01

ARCH DEPARTMENT

DU - GEN 201 Technical Report Writing - (1) الشجيرة التقنية للتقارير

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Dr. Sherif A. Sheta, 2011

1

THESIS SENTENCE TEMPLATES for Emerging Writers

I. GENERAL INTRODUCTION TEMPLATES

- In the report example we examined last week, we learnt a kind of introduction that **comes up directly** with the message – **without a general statement or background about the topic.**
- This can be used in **very short reports, lab reports or when conveying a message to the boss.**
- In **general essays and scientific papers** however, good introductions will usually have three component(s):
 1. some general statement(s) and perhaps background about the topic.
 2. a thesis sentence, and
 3. a roadmap of where the essay is going.

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2

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I. GENERAL INTRODUCTION TEMPLATES

- The last of these, *a roadmap of where the essay is going*, is optional, and in very short essays you do not need it.
- The term **roadmap** is metaphorical
- It refers to the **organization of your essay— what you will talk about and in what order**
- Unlike standard essay form in many countries (particularly in Europe), **in the United States everything is stated at the beginning** (and remember how important it is to identify your targeted reader)

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3

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I. GENERAL INTRODUCTION TEMPLATES

- When writing to **American reader**, there should be **no delicious surprises, no unexpected climaxes, and no suspense.**
- Think of the prominent and often used American expression: ***Show me the money!***

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4

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I. GENERAL INTRODUCTION TEMPLATES

- American audience wants to see the most important things first.
- In effect, an introduction should be like a **preview to a movie.**
- Although **the introduction comes first** in the essay, **you do not have to write it first.**

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5

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I. GENERAL INTRODUCTION TEMPLATES

- You might **start with** your introduction template **and then revise it** after you finish **because you seldom know everything you are going to say before you attempt to say it.** (say it first, then revise it)

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6

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I.1. General Introduction Template 1 #1/2

Truth be told,¹ _____ has generated a lot of _____

interest
controversy
discussion

lately
recently
in recent years.
in recent time

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7

THESIS SENTENCE TEMPLATES for Emerging Writers

I.1. General Introduction Template 1 #2/2

The major _____ that I will address in this essay

topic(s)
issue(s)
point(s)

is/are: _____.

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8

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I.1. General Introduction Template 1

Examples:

- **Question:** Why have you selected Harrad College?

Truth be told, Harrad College **has generated a lot of** interest lately. **The major** topics **that I will address in this essay are**²: the role of geography in my choice, the strength of the mathematics department, and the financial support offered by Harrad College.³

- **Your Question:**

1. Why have you selected Delta University for S&T?
2.
3.

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9

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I.1. General Introduction Template 1

Notes:

- **Truth be told** is an idiomatic expression meaning "*if the truth is told.*"
- Since you are telling the truth, this is a good way to begin.
- The expression uses the subjunctive case, a rarity in English.
- Using the expression demonstrates a high level of diction and an understanding of advanced structure.

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10

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I.1. General Introduction Template 1

Notes:

- In this case, you would **use a colon (:) to introduce your list**
- If you have **just one topic**, then you do not have a list and therefore do not need a colon
- **Because your list represents the three paragraphs composing the body of your paper**, your organization is **clear** and this indicates a good roadmap to your essay

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11

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I.1. General Introduction Template 1

Examples:

- **Question:** Music is an important part of society. People like music for many different reasons.
- Why do you think music is such an important part of people's lives?

Truth be told, the part that music plays in people's lives **has generated a lot of** interest in recent times. **The major** topic **that I will address in this essay is**¹ why music is so important in people's lives.²

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12

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I.1. General Introduction Template 1

Notes:

- You do not use a colon here because you do not have a list; you have one major topic
- Of course, how you will address this topic will be part of your roadmap
- You have not mentioned any specifics of the body of your essay, then you will need a roadmap template

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I.1. General Introduction Template 1

Examples:

- Your Question: Your family just told you that it will send you to any country you want for the whole summer.
- What country would you like to visit for the whole summer?
- Why would you like to go there?
- Your Example:
- peaked, sparked?